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CITY OF SEATTLE
MAYOR'S OFFICE

January 16, 2003

The Honorable Greg Nickels
Mayor of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mayor Nickels:

I write to support your decision to reconfirm Gary Zarker as Superintendent of Seattle City Light. I have some personal experience with Gary, having appointed him twice, once to Budget Director, and later to Director of the City's Engineering Department. Gary was the first non-engineer to head that department, and the City Council was skeptical, voting to confirm on a five to four vote.

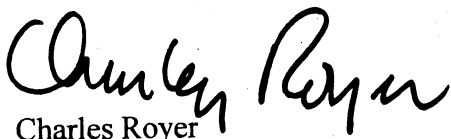
I think Councilmembers from that period would attest to the fact that, after a couple of years managing the department, Gary was the best manager of that department in their memories. I certainly felt that way. Gary had, and I believe has, not only the technical and managerial skills, but also the judgment to manage a large, public enterprise in a heated up public environment.

From my contacts in public power around the country, I hear nothing but praise and respect for Gary's leadership, especially in the areas of conservation and other public power policy issues.

Losing a person with Gary's experience would be a shame. City Light has never really had continuity in management—at least not since J. D. Ross. And that's a long time. That Gary has been willing to stick it out through some tough times and personal criticism, shows, I think, his dedication not only to the City, but also to the principal of getting the job done, and getting it done right.

I hope the Council has a thorough, but thoughtful process, and agrees with your sound decision to support him.

Sincerely,


Charles Royer